

# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

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## Contact Person

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Arthur Conner, 31, Beloit, Wisconsin, was convicted yesterday of distributing crack cocaine following a one-day trial in federal court in Madison.

At the trial, the government presented evidence showing that Conner arranged for the sale of 6 grams of cocaine for \$180 on December 20, 2006, in Beloit. On that day, Conner met with Michael Hughes and Abdul Harriel and distributed two rocks of crack cocaine to Harriel in the back seat of Hughes' car, which was parked on the 700 block of West Grand Avenue in Beloit. The Wisconsin State Crime Lab tested the cocaine, which tested positive for the presence of cocaine base, and it weighed a total of 5.737 grams.

U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz scheduled sentencing for October 9, 2007. Conner faces a mandatory penalty of ten years in prison, and a maximum penalty of life in prison. Harriel was sentenced on July 18 to 115 months and Hughes was sentenced on July 11 to 188 months.

The charges against Conner were the result of an investigation conducted by the Rock County Safe Streets Task Force comprised of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Rock County Sheriff's Department; the Beloit Police Department; the Janesville Police Department; and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau. To date, a total of 39 defendants have been convicted of federal drug and gun charges resulting from Task Force investigations. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Paul Connell and Dan Graber.

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